In the specification:

Replace the title of the specification at page 1, line 1 with the following title:

NOVEL CRSP-2 PROTEIN MOLECULES AND [NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES AND] USES THEREFOR

Replace the paragraph at page 3, line 31 through page 4, line 6 of the specification with the following paragraph,

Another embodiment of the invention features CRSP nucleic acid molecules which specifically detect CRSP nucleic acid molecules relative to nucleic acid molecules encoding non-CRSP proteins. For example, in one embodiment, a CRSP nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotides 470-2479 of nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, to nucleotides 1-475 of nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4, or to nucleotides 1-600 of nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:7, or hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or to the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]. In another embodiment, the CRSP nucleic acid molecule is at least 500 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10 or a complement thereof.

Replace the section beginning from page 14, line 3 through page 21, line 7 of the specification with the following section,

A nucleic acid molecule of the present invention, e.g., a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or a portion thereof, can be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and the sequence information provided herein. Using all or portion of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____] as a hybridization probe, CRSP nucleic acid molecules can be isolated using standard hybridization and cloning techniques (e.g., as described in Sambrook, J., Fritsh, E. F., and Maniatis, T. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual. 2nd, ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,* Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989).

Moreover, a nucleic acid molecule encompassing all or a portion of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence

of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____] can be isolated by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using synthetic oligonucleotide primers designed based upon the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____].

A nucleic acid of the invention can be amplified using cDNA, mRNA or alternatively, genomic DNA, as a template and appropriate oligonucleotide primers according to standard PCR amplification techniques. The nucleic acid so amplified can be cloned into an appropriate vector and characterized by DNA sequence analysis. Furthermore, oligonucleotides corresponding to CRSP nucleotide sequences can be prepared by standard synthetic techniques, e.g., using an automated DNA synthesizer.

In a preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1. The sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 corresponds to the human CRSP-1 cDNA. This cDNA comprises sequences encoding the human CRSP-1 protein (i.e., "the coding region", from nucleotides 38-1087), as well as 5' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 1 to 37) and 3' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 1088 to 2479). Alternatively, the nucleic acid molecule can comprise only the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1 (e.g., nucleotides 38 to 1087, corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3).

In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4. The sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 corresponds to the human CRSP-2 cDNA. This cDNA comprises sequences encoding the human CRSP-2 protein (i.e., "the coding region", from nucleotides 126-796), as well as 5' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 1 to 125) and 3' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 797 to 848). Alternatively, the nucleic acid molecule can comprise only the coding region of SEQ ID NO:4 (e.g., nucleotides 126 to 796, corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6).

In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:7. The sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 corresponds to the human CRSP-3 cDNA. This cDNA comprises sequences encoding the human CRSP-3 protein (i.e., "the coding region", from nucleotides 93-890), as well as 5' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 1 to 92) and 3' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 891 to 1529). Alternatively, the nucleic acid molecule can comprise only the coding region of SEQ ID NO:7 (e.g., nucleotides 93 to 890, corresponding to SEQ ID NO:9).

In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:10. The sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 corresponds to the human CRSP-4 cDNA. This cDNA comprises sequences encoding the human CRSP-4 protein (i.e., "the coding region", from nucleotides 1-537), as well as 3' untranslated sequences (nucleotides 538 to 702). Alternatively, the nucleic acid molecule can comprise only the coding region of SEQ ID NO:10 (e.g., nucleotides 1 to 537, corresponding to SEQ ID NO:12).

In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule which is a complement of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or a portion of any of these nucleotide sequences. A nucleic acid molecule which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the

plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], is one which is sufficiently complementary to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], such that it can hybridize to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], thereby forming a stable duplex.

In still another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention comprises a nucleotide sequence which is at least about 60-65%, preferably at least about 70-75%, more preferable at least about 80-85%, and even more preferably at least about 90-95% or more homologous to the nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or a portion of any of these nucleotide sequences.

Moreover, the nucleic acid molecule of the invention can comprise only a portion of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], for example a fragment which can be used as a probe or primer or a fragment encoding a biologically active portion of a CRSP protein. The nucleotide sequence determined from the cloning of the human CRSP genes allows for the generation of probes and primers designed for use in identifying and/or cloning CRSP homologues in other cell types, e.g., from other tissues, as well as CRSP homologues from other mammals. The probe/primer typically comprises substantially purified oligonucleotide. The oligonucleotide typically comprises a region of nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to at least about 12, preferably about 25, more preferably about 40, 50 or 75 consecutive nucleotides of a sense sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], of an anti-sense sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or of a naturally occurring mutant of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]. In an exemplary embodiment, a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 470-2479 of SEQ ID NO:1 or to a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 1-475 of SEQ ID NO:4.

Probes based on the human CRSP nucleotide sequence can be used to detect transcripts or genomic sequences encoding the same or homologous proteins. In preferred embodiments,

the probe further comprises a label group attached thereto, e.g., the label group can be a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, an enzyme, or an enzyme co-factor. Such probes can be used as a part of a diagnostic test kit for identifying cells or tissue which misexpress a CRSP protein, such as by measuring a level of a CRSP-encoding nucleic acid in a sample of cells from a subject e.g., detecting CRSP mRNA levels or determining whether a genomic CRSP gene has been mutated or deleted.

A nucleic acid fragment encoding a "biologically active portion of a CRSP protein" can be prepared by isolating a portion of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], which encodes a polypeptide having a CRSP biological activity (the biological activities of the CRSP proteins have previously been described), expressing the encoded portion of the CRSP protein (e.g., by recombinant expression *in vitro*) and assessing the activity of the encoded portion of the CRSP protein.

The invention further encompasses nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____] due to degeneracy of the genetic code and thus encode the same CRSP proteins as those encoded by the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]. In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention has a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11.

In addition to the human CRSP nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that DNA sequence polymorphisms that lead to changes in the amino acid sequences of the CRSP proteins may exist within a population (e.g., the human population). Such genetic polymorphism in the CRSP genes may exist among individuals within a population due to natural allelic variation. As used herein, the terms "gene" and "recombinant gene" refer to nucleic acid molecules comprising an open reading frame encoding a CRSP protein, preferably a mammalian CRSP protein. Such natural allelic variations can typically result in 1-5% variance in the nucleotide sequence of a CRSP gene. Any and all such nucleotide variations and resulting amino acid polymorphisms in CRSP genes that are the result of natural allelic variation and that do not alter the functional activity of a CRSP protein are intended to be within the scope of the invention.

Moreover, nucleic acid molecules encoding CRSP proteins from other species, and thus which have a nucleotide sequence which differs from the human sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____] are intended to be within the scope of the invention. For example, a murine CRSP-1 cDNA has been identified based of the nucleotide sequence of human CRSP-1. The nucleotide sequence of murine CRSP-1 (SEQ ID NO:16) encodes a CRSP-1 protein having 349 amino acids. The

nucleotide and amino acid sequences of murine CRSP-1 are depicted in Figure 8. The coding region of murine CRSP-1 is represented by SEQ ID NO:18.

Nucleic acid molecules corresponding to natural allelic variants and homologues of the CRSP cDNAs of the invention can be isolated based on their homology to the human CRSP nucleic acids disclosed herein using the human cDNA, or a portion thereof, as a hybridization probe according to standard hybridization techniques under stringent hybridization conditions.

Accordingly, in another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention is at least 15 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]. In other embodiment, the nucleic acid is at least 30, 50, 100, 250 or 500 nucleotides in length. As used herein, the term "hybridizes under stringent conditions" is intended to describe conditions for hybridization and washing under which nucleotide sequences at least 60% homologous to each other typically remain hybridized to each other. Preferably, the conditions are such that sequences at least about 70%, more preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about 85% or 90% homologous to each other typically remain hybridized to each other. Such stringent conditions are known to those skilled in the art and can be found in *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6. A preferred, non-limiting example of stringent hybridization conditions are hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C. Preferably, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 corresponds to a naturally-occurring nucleic acid molecule. As used herein, a "naturally-occurring" nucleic acid molecule refers to an RNA or DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence that occurs in nature (e.g., encodes a natural protein).

In addition to naturally-occurring allelic variants of the CRSP sequences that may exist in the population, the skilled artisan will further appreciate that changes can be introduced by mutation into the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], thereby leading to changes in the amino acid sequence of the encoded CRSP proteins, without altering the functional ability of the CRSP proteins. For example, nucleotide substitutions leading to amino acid substitutions at "non-essential" amino acid residues can be made in the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]. A "non-essential" amino acid residue is a residue that can be altered from the wild-type sequence of CRSP (e.g., the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11) without altering the biological activity, whereas an "essential" amino acid residue is required for biological activity. For example, amino acid residues that are conserved among the CRSP proteins of the present invention, are predicted to be particularly unamenable to alteration. Furthermore, amino acid residues that are conserved between CRSP protein and other proteins having cysteine-rich domains are not likely to be amenable to alteration.

Accordingly, another aspect of the invention pertains to nucleic acid molecules encoding CRSP proteins that contain changes in amino acid residues that are not essential for activity.

Such CRSP proteins differ in amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11 yet retain biological activity. In one embodiment, the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein, wherein the protein comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 60% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11. Preferably, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule is at least about 65-70% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11, more preferably at least about 75-80% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11, even more preferably at least about 85-90% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11, and most preferably at least about 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11.

An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a CRSP protein homologous to the protein of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:11 can be created by introducing one or more nucleotide substitutions, additions or deletions into the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], such that one or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions are introduced into the encoded protein. Mutations can be introduced into SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____] by standard techniques, such as site-directed mutagenesis and PCR-mediated mutagenesis. Preferably, conservative amino acid substitutions are made at one or more predicted non-essential amino acid residues. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with basic side chains (e.g., lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (e.g., aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (e.g., glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (e.g., alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (e.g., threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (e.g., tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus, a predicted nonessential amino acid residue in a CRSP protein is preferably replaced with another amino acid residue from the same side chain family. Alternatively, in another embodiment, mutations can be introduced randomly along all or part of a CRSP coding sequence, such as by saturation mutagenesis, and the resultant mutants can be screened for CRSP biological activity to identify mutants that retain activity. Following mutagenesis of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], the encoded protein can be expressed recombinantly and the activity of the protein can be determined.

Replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 20-37 of the specification with the following paragraph,

In still another embodiment, an antisense nucleic acid of the invention is a ribozyme. Ribozymes are catalytic RNA molecules with ribonuclease activity which are capable of

cleaving a single-stranded nucleic acid, such as an mRNA, to which they have a complementary region. Thus, ribozymes (e.g., hammerhead ribozymes (described in Haselhoff and Gerlach (1988) *Nature* 334:585-591)) can be used to catalytically cleave CRSP mRNA transcripts to thereby inhibit translation of CRSP mRNA. A ribozyme having specificity for a CRSP-encoding nucleic acid can be designed based upon the nucleotide sequence of a CRSP cDNA disclosed herein (i.e., SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____]). For example, a derivative of a *Tetrahymena* L-19 IVS RNA can be constructed in which the nucleotide sequence of the active site is complementary to the nucleotide sequence to be cleaved in a CRSP-encoding mRNA. See, e.g., Cech et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,987,071; and Cech et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,116,742. Alternatively, CRSP mRNA can be used to select a catalytic RNA having a specific ribonuclease activity from a pool of RNA molecules. See, e.g., Bartel, D. and Szostak, J.W. (1993) *Science* 261:1411-1418.

Replace the paragraph at page 57, line 25 through page 58, line 2 of the specification with the following paragraph,

An exemplary method for detecting the presence or absence of CRSP protein or nucleic acid in a biological sample involves obtaining a biological sample from a test subject and contacting the biological sample with a compound or an agent capable of detecting CRSP protein or nucleic acid (e.g., mRNA, genomic DNA) that encodes CRSP protein such that the presence of CRSP protein or nucleic acid is detected in the biological sample. A preferred agent for detecting CRSP mRNA or genomic DNA is a labeled nucleic acid probe capable of hybridizing to CRSP mRNA or genomic DNA. The nucleic acid probe can be, for example, a full-length CRSP nucleic acid, such as the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 98633 [_____], or a portion thereof, such as an oligonucleotide of at least 15, 30, 50, 100, 250 or 500 nucleotides in length and sufficient to specifically hybridize under stringent conditions to CRSP mRNA or genomic DNA. Other suitable probes for use in the diagnostic assays of the invention are described herein.